

THE DEMOCRATIC INSTANT ANALYSIS

THE CREDIBILITY GAP WIDENS

	2002 State of The Union	2003 State of The Union	THE REALITY: <i>MORE BAIT AND SWITCH</i>
HOMELAND SECURITY	“We’ll increase funding to help states and communities train and equip our heroic police and firefighters.”	“This government is taking unprecedented measures to protect our people and defend our homeland.”	<p>THE BUSH RECORD</p> <p>Effectively vetoed <u>\$2.5 billion</u> in homeland security funding in 2002 and opposes Democratic initiatives to add additional homeland security resources.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION</p> <p>In the FY03 Appropriations bill, Republicans cut an <i>additional</i> <u>\$1 billion</u> from homeland security programs.</p>
ECONOMY AND JOBS	“My economic policy can be summed up in one word: <u>jobs</u> .”	“We must have an economy that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job.”	<p>THE BUSH RECORD</p> <p>2.3 million private sector jobs lost since January 2001. Continues to oppose extending UI to 1 million unemployed workers whose benefits have expired.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION</p> <p>A ‘stimulus’ plan that provides almost half of Americans with less than \$100, while millionaires get an immediate tax break of \$90,000 a year.</p>

	2002 State of The Union	2003 State of The Union	THE REALITY: <i>MORE BAIT AND SWITCH</i>
BUDGET	“Our budget will run a deficit that will be small and short-term.”	“We will not pass on our problems to other Congresses, other Presidents, and other generations...The best way to address the deficit and move towards a balanced budget is to show some spending discipline in Washington.”	THE BUSH RECORD Projects record budget deficits for the foreseeable future, with a total deficit of \$300 billion in 2003. ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION A tax plan that would add \$1.5 trillion to the national deficit over the next 10 years.
VETERANS HEALTH CARE	“I ask Congress to join me ...[and] approve an historic increase in veterans health.”	NO MENTION	THE BUSH RECORD Denied access to health care for at least 160,000 veterans. Over 230,000 veterans must wait more than six months for their first appointment with the VA. ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION Senate Republicans passed an additional \$692 million in cuts to the VA, leaving another 230,000 veterans without access to care.
ENVIRONMENT	“This Congress must act to encourage conservation...and increase energy production so America is less dependent on foreign oil.”	“Our...goal is to promote energy independence for our country while dramatically improving the environment...[We can] protect our environment in ways that	THE BUSH RECORD Cut superfund by 45 percent; undermined clean water protections; and weakened clean air standards. ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION

		environment in ways that generations before us could not have imagined.”	Undermines Clean Air Act, delaying scheduled reductions in air pollution by several years.
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MEDICARE	“I ask Congress to join me ...[and] give seniors a sound and modern Medicare system that includes coverage for prescription drugs.”	“We must...give seniors access to the preventive medicine and new drugs that are transforming health care in America.”	THE BUSH RECORD No action on a prescription drug benefit, and blocked legislation to increase access to generic drugs. ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION Coerces seniors to give up traditional Medicare and their choice of doctors and join an HMO to get drug coverage.
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE	“Americans know that economic security can vanish in an instant without health security.”	“Our second goal is high quality health care for all Americans.”	THE BUSH RECORD The number of uninsured rose by 1.4 million in 2001. There are 41 million Americans without health insurance. ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION The President wants ineffective individual tax credits for the uninsured, which undermine employer based insurance.
EDUCATION	“Good jobs begin with good schools – and here we’ve made a fine start.”	“To lift the standards of our public schools, we achieved historic education reform.”	THE BUSH RECORD Refuses to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act. Without this funding, schools will not be able to hire 50,000 new teachers and 1 million children will go without after-school help.

		education reform.”	ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION Proposed the weakest education budget in seven years.
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Office of the Senate Democratic Leader, January 28, 2003